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SLAVE LABOR
IN
SOVIET RUSSIA

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Translated by B. Warkentin, Kitchener, Ontario
1937

(26 Original Illustrations)

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Abbreviations

S. W. C.—"Stalin White Sea Canal", the title of an official publication dealing with the construction of the White Sea Canal, issued at Moscow in 1934.

All illustrations—unless otherwise listed—are from the above publication.

To Our American Readers

WHAT is going on in Russia? Is Communism a failure—a success?

These questions are asked by millions of Americans today. They read strange contradictory accounts about the economical and political conditions of Soviet Russia.

Today they read about such colossal technical achievements that even those in America seem to be over shadowed. The next day they read of a general food shortage, or famine, or revolts and shootings. Other statements of a more balanced opinion point to alleged concessions supposedly made by the Soviet government in favor of democratic principles.

But all these reports seem to lack sincerity—they leave an impression in the mind of the reader that the writers somehow were not without prejudices. And the more contradictory reports that are read, the more shrouded and mysterious becomes the Soviet Union—the greater is the desire to learn the truth.

True facts can never be acquired from personal opinions of occasional visitors to the Soviet Union. It was, therefore, necessary to resort to other, more reliable sources, in order to correctly answer the questions existing in the minds of the people. And these sources were found—*in the newspapers and official records of the communists themselves.*

The following exhaustive material, as taken from the various publications of the U. S. S. R., presents an excellent inside view of actual conditions in the first Marxist State of the world, after eighteen years of existence. And this first-hand information, in its cruel nakedness, is as convincing as it is indisputable. It will dispel the clouds of doubt about the real nature of U. S. S. R. and its Jewish leaders.

It is with great pleasure that I take the opportunity of presenting this translation, in an effort to challenge every true American to give strong and firm support in averting the dangers of Communism—the greatest evil of modern times and the destroyer of human rights, Christianity, and civilization.

As a native of Russia who succeeded in escaping from the Soviet, I am naturally anxious to have the actual truth known.

Kitchener, January 1937

B. Warkentin

Preface

THE world today is comparatively well informed about the fate of the compulsion workers in the Soviet Union.

But little is known about the concentration camps where conditions are so gruesome as to be almost unbelievable. Many people find it difficult to realize that this state of affairs can exist in the twentieth century.

This explains why the descriptions about compulsion labor in the Soviet Union are sometimes sceptically received.

This presentation of investigations is, therefore, based exclusively on actual reports of the government-controlled Soviet press and official governmental records. The photographs are also taken from official Soviet sources thereby providing a possibility for everyone to verify for himself the interpretations.

We wish to point out that all illustrations in this brochure are true reproductions of originals as they appeared in the official Soviet publication: "Stalin White Sea Canal" or in Soviet newspapers. We could not afford to disturb the poor quality of these pictures by retouching them as they reflect true conditions existing in the U. S. S. R.

It is not our aim to present a complete and exhaustive account of the actual number of prisoners, the numbers put to death, the distribution of concentration camps, etc., but rather to give a cross-cut of the life of those condemned to this form of living death—true and without exaggeration as conditions really are.

H. G.

The Jewish potentates of Russia. The picture shows from left to right: *Firin* (Jew, Chief of Concentration Camps, *Jagoda* (Jew, Chief of the G. P. U.), *Kaganowitch* (Jew, right-hand man and father-in-law of dictator Joseph Stalin) and *Kagan* (Jew, Chief of constructions in the Camps) during an inspection of the canal Volga-Moskwa, which is being built by compulsion labor. The picture appeared in the Soviet paper "Wetchernaja Moskwa" Oct. 1, 1935.

Chapter One

Extermination of the Valuable National Elements of Russia Through Jewry.

In November 1917, Jewish Marxism completely absorbed the ruling power of Russia.

Its next step was to expand this power through the exploitation of the masses. As an ideal state, it visioned a slavishly devoted and a spiritually and morally degenerated, population.

Soon, however, the new rulers discovered that this goal could not be attained unless all those racially valuable elements which would never be content with a life of slavery, were exterminated.

With the aid of a terroristic organization, established specially for this purpose—the Tscheka (*Tsche-Ka*, meaning extraordinary commission) and later the G. P. U., they started out on the bloody task.

It was comparatively easy to dispose of the leading and most valuable racial elements: the intelligentsia and nobility.

A certain number of the intelligentsia had fallen during the world war, and an even greater number fell during the civil war which led up to the inauguration of Jewish control. The rest either fled the country or were cruelly massacred by the Tscheka.

Only a very small number were allowed to contribute their knowledge and experience in service for the new state.

But the most difficult problem was the handling of the peasants. Lenin, himself, had long ago recognized that the greatest obstacle in establishing a Communistic slave-state would be the strong and healthy peasant, consequently the government had but one alternative: *the complete destruction of the healthy peasantry.*

The Jew Jagoda (Hershel Jehuda) Chief of the Tscheka—G. P. U., now called the "Commissariat of the Interior". All concentration camps are under his supervision.

Although the new rulers, ever since their rise to power, encountered a stiff opposition from the peasantry, their real drive to achieve their object commenced with the first Five Year Plan *(Pjatilettka)*. It was to be a bloody, and in the history of mankind, unique act.

The entire independent peasantry, the so-called "Kulaks" were dispossessed of their possessions and driven from their farms.

During this process of "raskulatchivanje" or *diskulakizing*, a great number were massacred on the spot. But the masses of these dispossessed farmers became so great that it was absolutely impossible to destroy them all and the government was forced to adopt other methods of dealing with them.

The Kulaks were then gathered from all sections, dumped into box cars and transferred to remote places of the Soviet Union. Endlessly, these trains rolled through the steppes and snow-covered fields of Siberia. Uncountable was the number of men who never were to see their point of destination; they died on the way to the concentration camps but millions reached their destinations nevertheless.

Although these camps had already existed previously, they began to grow in importance and new ones were created as fast as the "living material" rolled in.

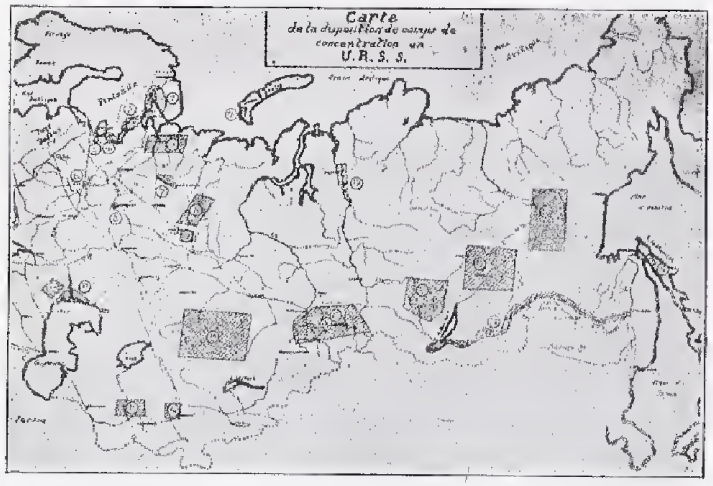
For millions of people, concentration camps have been nothing but transit points into eternity. Here the death of millions could not be accounted for as murder and moreover, these death-sacrificed victims of Jewish tyranny could be exploited to the last drop of blood in the interest of a "Socialistic State" before being freed by the merciful reaper—death.

The purpose of the creation of these slave camps is threefold:

1. The inconspicious extermination of the "undesirables".

2. Exploitation of the physical power of the condemned.

3. The setting of an example for the entire population



The distribution of concentration camps in U. S. S. R. 1. Camp Solovky: lumber, power plant, fisheries. 2. Camp: White Sea Canal. 3. North Camp: lumber. 4. Camp Swyrsk: Water-power plant. 5. Camp Wolchow: Aluminun plant. 6. a. Camp Dmitrow: Moskwa-Volga-Canal. 6. b. Camp Sornovo: Harbor. 7. Camp Kotlass: railroad. 8. Camp Wischera: chemical plant and mining. 9. Camp Kungul: mining and smelting. 10. Camp North-Caucasia: Grain "factories". 11. Camp Astrachan: Fisheries. 12. Camp Kasakstan: Cattle and canning plant. 13. Camp Tschardjony: Cotton and textile plant. 14. Camp Taschkant: Cotton and textile plant. 15. Camp Siberia: Coal and metal. 16. Camp Novaja Semlja: Lead. 17. Camp Igorka: Harper, lumber. 18. Camp Narim: Lumber. 19. Camp Lena: Gold. 20. Camp Lena-Olekma: Lumber and precious metals. 21. Camp Amur-Seja: gold, agriculture, railroad, harbor and fortifications on the river Amur. 22. Camp Sachalin: Coal (Chart prepared by: "Entente Internationale contre la III ime Internationale" Geneva.)

to suffocate any possible uprisings against the Jewish despotism.

The first purpose is undoubtedly the most important, although the financial value of the working power of the compulsion workers is by no means underestimated by the Soviet government.

As lumberjacks, for instance, these exiles produce much cheap lumber that can easily be used for dumping on the world's markets; and as construction hands they create canals, highways, dams, etc., all of which gives the rulers ample reason to boast about the "wonderful" achievements of the new Socialistic State.

In spite of the ever increasing masses of prisoners this "living material" very often is not sufficient to fulfill the fantastic "plans" of the government, because people die as a result of the horrible conditions that prevail in these concentration camps about as rapidly as new material can be delivered.

And so, the Soviet government organizes and conducts from time to time "man-hunts" to provide new material. People are often arrested and exiled who even in the eyes of the government could not be in any sense regarded as "undesirables".

They are arrested, parted from their loved ones and sent to a camp where a certain death awaits them just for the simple reason that these Jewish despots need man power which is cheaper than even the use of animals.

Such man-hunts, for instance, were carried on during the summer of 1935 in many districts of the Union. Thousands of able bodied men disappeared "mysteriously".

Naturally the Soviet press, as a rule, maintains an absolute silence about such happenings. Sometimes, however, reports leak through. The *"Isvestija"* — an official organ, reported in its issue of September 22, 1935, some facts about the recent man-hunts.

According to this paper, in the city of Tskeljabinsk, 57 persons were "arrested" in the community

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A Landscape in Siberia. The ground is covered with huge rocks and boulders. Through this lonely and stony country the White Sea Canal was built entirely by compulsion labor, which means that it was constructed in human blood.

against whom absolutely nothing could be found to justify the action.

This same paper gives a few examples illustrating how citizens of the Soviet Union can be changed into compulsion workers:

"The wife of Abdul Seifulin, a worker in a Kolchos (Kollectivnoje Chosajstwo—collective farm. B. W.) is working on a neighboring Kolchos. She owns a passport issued by the city of Tskeljabinsk and lives in a room on a worker's settlement. Seifulin has a habit of visiting his wife now and then. One night, just as Seifulin happened to be calling on his wife, along came an inspector to check up on passport owners. (Russians must have passports in order to cross

from one town to another. By this method the authorities are able to keep a check on everybody. B. W.) Seifulin produced his passport issued by the Soviet of his community and a workbook from the Kolchos. Everything seemed to be in due order but the militia from Tskeljabinsk has its own conclusions. Seifulin is being arrested and the 'detachment 4' prepares a protocol about the arrest and is 'sending off' a damaging character and a dangerous counter-revolutionist to a concentration camp."

Another case:

"In the same city lives the workers Michailew. He has worked in a factory ever since it was founded. And he has a passport too. His wife, however, to whom he has been married for fifteen years and who raised his four children, cannot get a passport. She has her legitimation papers though, but on them is a remark from the Chief of a militia detachment, 'papers O. K. but passport cannot be served as woman has lived in Tskeljabinsk less than three years'. That means that a passport is to be prepared by the authorities of her former residence but they also refuse to do so on the ground that she has been absent too long and so, while the quarrel has gone on, the woman has stayed with her husband. But that was all too much for the militia. During the latter part of July, Mrs. Michailew was arrested. What followed was the usual procedure: exile—dangerous to society . . . ."

A third example:

"One night in July the chief of the militia detachment, together with a couple of subordinates, paid an unexpected visit to the laboress, Maria Chlistunova. A baby was heard to cry! The room was searched thoroughly and finally the woman was told that she was arrested and would have to be 'sent off'. She was told she would learn more about it in the station of the detachment. Together with her baby, the woman was hurried away and incarcerated. The next day it was explained to her that she was to be exiled as an enemy of the Socialistic State. The reason was that her husband who, by the way, had left her a few months previous, had failed to report for work in the factory one

The Jew, Matwej Davidsohn Berman, a high G. P. U. official.

The Jew, Jacob Davidsohn Rappoport, assistant chief of G. P. U., head office. A high G. P. U. official.

morning. As a result, his passport was cancelled, he, himself, laid off and his wife sent to Siberia". (1)

These heart-breaking examples show that not only "generals" and "capitalists" are prosecuted and exiled but every worker, farmer, in fact, the entire population is "free game" for these Jewish rulers.

In connection with these facts, I shall refer to a letter written by an engineer who returned from the Soviet Union and who gives an indisputable opinion of the problem: (2)

"If one goes to the jail of Leningrad during the visiting

(1) Isvestija September 22, 1935.

(2) Published in "U. S. S. R. Service" Number 72 of October 10, 1935.

hour, one will note a long queue of people standing there only to get information if their relatives in the jail are still among the living. In the majority of cases, these people are young women—the wives of workers, or old half-starved mothers who often wait six and eight hours patiently worrying over the fate of their relatives.

"The information is always brief and harshly given by officials. The sentence in most cases calls for compulsion work or exile. If you are tempted to ask these worried and shabbily clad people why their son, brother or husband was arrested, you will learn that their offence in most cases was a side step in the Party discipline: the quitting of membership in some local communistic organization—communication with relatives abroad, the fostering of religious alliances, etc.

"The investigations and preliminary hearings are long and trying and the prisoner, if successful in offering a perfect alibi, is a complete wreck after his release. Most of the prisoners, however, are sentenced to compulsion labor in the eternal Siberian north or to the hot and murderous deserts.

"In the North they are chiefly used in stone quarries and for the construction of railroads, highways and fortifications—this is particularly true on the peninsula Kola. Furthermore, they are employed in industry where they perform valuable and cheap work.

"Alongside with the diskulakized farmers these 'minor offenders' are a very valuable 'material' and deliver their service without any remuneration in upbuilding of the communistic state. (This can only be interpreted as slave-labor).

"The consumption of this living material is very great and therefore has to be continually replenished. No worker will ever go voluntarily to these desolate northern regions and it is up to the Jewish-Bolshevik judges to take care of a continuous flow of supply to the compulsion camps of Kola and North-Carelia. . . ."

The reliable agents which serve the Soviet government in a slow extermination of the lives of the condemned are: frost, under nourishment, disease, hard work, persecution, etc.

We are in possession of very reliable and true information about the life of the exiled.

The best reports are those supplied by persons who themselves, were once condemned but were successful in their desperate effort to escape. Here follows the story of a Russo-German farmer, Rempel, who, as an eyewitness tells his own experiences: (3)

" . . . . one of them particularly aroused my pity. His face was frozen and black—the cheeks and nose were covered with pus and I had considerable difficulty in suppressing an abominable feeling. In spite of his wounds he was working in the cold wind. I asked him why he would not have himself treated in the hospital. He looked up in horror and replied in a timid and frightened voice: 'Konzlagernyj', (sentenced to compulsion camp).

"The rough climate and extremely hard work left a pitiful imprint on the prisoners. Tired and bent they moved about. A certain amount of work *(urok,* task) was given every day but it was necessary to work at least twelve hours to get this *urok* done. I was told that in the fall, 3,000 prisoners were stuffed into one of the barracks and of this number only seventy-five survived, the rest of them died. . . ."

Another Russo-German who also had escaped from a concentration camp gives his experiences as follows: (4)

"I have never in my life met anybody who treated a dog in such a manner as people of every nationality are being treated at Solovky. To be beaten wantonly is nothing unusual, everybody is used to that.

"We work from early 'till night and have to dig stumps from the frozen ground—and all that for a very small piece of bread of bad quality. Sometimes we get two salt herrings per day but are refused drinking water. In winter we often collapsed in the extreme cold.

(3) J. Rempel: "My escape from the Soviet Hell". Kassel 1935—Pages 129-131.

(4) A. Schwarz: "In Wologdas' White Forests". Altona-Elbe—Pages 165-166.

"*Beatings.* We were dragged into the forest when we were unable to lift an arm. . . . In the eyes of those devils it is 'unwillingness to work' and the result: singular treatment. In winter we were confined naked to blockhouses with a temperature of 50-55 degrees Reaumur. *In summer we were stripped to the skin, tied to trees and given as prey to millions of mosquitoes. . . .*"

It is impossible to give a correct estimate as to the actual number of compulsion workers in the Soviet Union. But it is a fact that millions of people have vanished in exile and that many more millions are still subjected to great sufferings in the concentration camps. (5)

(5) It is estimated by "Study of German Homecomers from U. S. S. R", Berlin, that the number of exiles at present is at least six million. Thereof about 200,000 are of German descent.

Chapter Two

The Origin of the Compulsion Workers

AS already pointed out, the greatest contingent of the compulsion workers is comprised of peasants.

A multitude of decrees and enactments provide the "legal" ground for apprehension of the farmers and their exile. In this connection the famous "decree of protection of Socialistic property, August 7, 1932" may be quoted. Section Two of this decree reads:

1. All chattels of the Kolchos and other co-operative establishments (the crops in the fields, joint reserves of grain, cattle and all stock in warehouses, etc.) are to be regarded as state property and the protection service for this property is to be intensified.

2. In cases of this property being stolen the maxima of social defense is to be applied: shooting and confiscation of the entire private property or in case of commutation of sentence—deprivation of liberty for not less than ten years and confiscation of property.

3. To persons sentenced for theft of Kolchos or co-operative property, amnesty cannot be granted. (6)

This decree carries the responsibility for the shooting of countless innocent farmers and a steady flow of "material" to the concentration camps. Up to the present time, the transports roll endlessly out with apprehended farmers, condemned to exile and forced labor.

Another decree on the ground of which countless farmers (also workers) were sent into exile is the amendment of Sections 36 and 61 of the criminal code of February 15, 1931. (7)

Section 2 of this decree calls for compulsion labor for

(6) Codes of Laws, U. S. S. R. 1932. I. No. 62.
(7) Codes of Laws of R. S. F. S. R. 1931. I. No. 9.

These barracks lack proper light and give no protection against the grim cold; yet they are the sole earthly possessions of the condemned.

persons found guilty of refusal to work. The regulation is strictly adhered to in case of farmers.

The German-speaking element comprises a surprisingly large percentage of the compulsion workers and exiles. These ambitious and highly industrious people have for their stubborn adherence to their soil, to stand the brunt of hatred from the Soviet government. Reports are pouring out daily about the apprehension and transfer to camps of German farmers. (Germans in Russia are suffering in a special manner at the hands of the Jewish rulers because Germany has dealt so successfully with the communist problem at home. B. W.) The following report will substantiate this:

"With unequaled persistence the German-speaking people of Aserbeidshan are being persecuted, and by the hundreds 'sent off' to Siberia. The same was reported from the

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Batum-district wherein over a hundred German families had fled during 1932-33 and by working in orchards and tea plantations were able to lead a sub-existence. Some time ago all males were arrested and confined to concentration camps whence they are transferred daily in trucks to their different places of work. The women and children also have to work several hours a day on the plantations."

It is reported further that from the district of Odessa a hundred German prisoners were brought to this camp and made to perform compulsion work.

In pursuance of this terroristic action, a court proceeding was enacted against the management of the famous company "Concordia"—a syndicate of all German vineries of Helendorf in the Caucasian region. Seventeen members were sentenced to ten years of compulsion labor and transferred to Siberia.

Numerous reports show that the terror against the German element in Russia is being carried out with ruthless vehemence.

Through the "Study of German Homecomers from U. S. S. R." we are informed that again twenty-seven German settlers and their families from Wolhynia (on the Polish border. B. W.) were exiled to the marshes of Carelia:

"These families are in great distress as they were denied the right to take along any necessities".

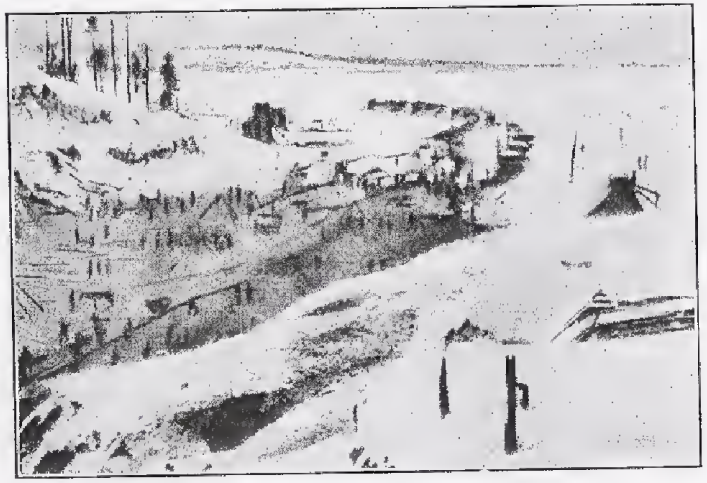
The members of these particular families were separated. The women and children were housed in filthy barracks whilst the men were made to work in remote places up to one-hundred kilometers (one kilometer is approximately six-tenths of a mile. B. W.) distance. The bread ration was curtailed to a minimum. Every working person regardless of sex receives a daily ration of about one pound of dark bread.

For the old, infirm and sick inhabitants the ration is even smaller. (The Jews thus keep the people so helpless and weak that a counter-revolution is impossible. B. W.)

Cold, moisture, filth and starvation lend a helping hand to the Soviet government and the number of victims grows

daily. The death toll is especially large among the children. Unimaginable is the number of exiles who, in the hundreds of camps in Carelia, Siberia, the far east and wherever they may be, are wretchedly destroyed.

The Soviet court of Novograd-Wolinsk has upheld the death sentence of the German school teacher, Margarethe Gruenke, the wife of a former director of the German school of Krasno-retchensk, Hugo Gruenke. The conviction of Frau



In this snow desert of the eternal north, hundreds of thousands of prisoners are working on the construction of the White Sea Canal. Here we see the terminal of the canal.

Gruenke resulted from the charge of counter-revolutionary plot among her colleagues.

Through a private but absolutely reliable source we are informed that the whole village Ak-Metched in Chiva, composed of 316 members, was exiled on the 30th of April 1935. The inhabitants of Ak-Metched were transferred to Tadshi-

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kistan, Fergana to perform compulsion labor in a water-lacking valley of the Hindukush. (8)

Similar reports appear in the foreign press. "Gazette de Lausanne" according to a reliable source, says that among the Soviet government compulsory exiles, there are hundreds of thousands of citizens of Polish and German origin.

These people are transferred to Siberia and into the extreme north. Sometimes whole villages are taken by sur-

Exiles during the construction of the White Sea Canal. This stretch of land was literally covered with dead bodies before the Canal was completed.

prise at night and regardless of family connections taken into exile. From the city of Leningrad alone, according to the same paper, approximately 20,000 families were sent into exile during a period from January until the end of March 1935.

And this action on the part of officials, is by no means

(8) Report from "Union of Russo-Germans." 1935, Issue 4.

in away of punishment of rioters and counter-revolutionists, but rather a systematic political measure. (9)

Aside from the German-speaking contingent the inhabitants of the concentration camps are comprised of many other nationalities: from the fertile steppes of the Ukraine, from the northern forests of Carelia, Krasnowodsk, Stalina, Samarkind, Katta-Kurgan and Taschkent come the Turks, Tatars, Ukrainians, Finns, Tekinzes, Armenians. Usbecks and representatives of many other nationalities.

As an example we quote reports of the exiled Finns. This information was furnished by the "Committee of Ingermannland":

"From 1929 to 1931 about 4,320 Finnish families (approximately 18,000 persons) were driven from their homes and transferred to remote places of the Soviet Union.

"After a considerable slackness that was noticed during the following two years the Soviet government has considerably increased its drive against the Finnish population in Ingermannland since the early spring of this year (1935. B. W.). During the months of April and May 1935, according to reliable information 2,500 to 2,600 Finnish families were transferred mainly to Turkestan.

"To camouflage this unjustifiable act, these farmers had to sign a declaration that their transfer was being committed on their own decision and desire. Whoever refused to sign the declaration was sent to a camp in Siberia".

A witness who made his escape from Ingermannland to Finland tells the following:

"About the middle of April 1935 from the railroad station 'Elizavetina' (between Narva and Gatchina) two trains loaded with prisoners were dispatched. Both trains were loaded over capacity and emergency locomotives had to be supplied. The prisoners were in the majority Finnish farmers with a few Esthonians among them. It is said that nearly all Esthonian peasants from western Ingermannland are being transferred to Central Asia.

(9) "Bedliner Boersenzeitung" May 29, 1935.

"At the same time two trains left the freight station of Gatchina. To prevent the relatives and friends from bidding a farewell to the condemned, all entrances of the cars were kept tightly locked and under observation."(10)

"An escaped Carelian, Jefim Popoff, who was interned in the village Saamajarvi, relates that from Petroskoi 1,250 men partly with families were removed. At the time of his escape about 400 Carelians were kept under surveillance in the church and two other buildings. The prisoners were to go to Central Asia". (11)

To the ranks of exiles belong the representatives of the old leading class whose numbers, however, are constantly decreasing. "We still have in our camps real counts, estate holders, duchesses, courtladies, etc."—boasts Jewish comrade Matwey Davidsohn Berman, Chief of camp administration of the G. P. U. (12)

The greatest contingent of these "old-timers" of old Russia was exiled in pursuance of the new regulation in regard to passports of December 27, 1932 according to which only the holders of passports were permitted to remain in the cities. Naturally these "undesirables" were refused passports and, therefore, could easily be eliminated from the cities. Practically all of them landed in Siberia. (13)

Here we have to mention the clergy in particular. It is generally known that the clergy of every denomination (except the Jewish "Confession") is subject to wild hatred by the Jewish despots. A great part of the priests were "physically destroyed", the rest exiled. Today very few are at large. *Passports are denied those who profess religion.*

The international Pro-Deo-Commission of Geneva has published some facts regarding the fate of the Evangelical clergy:

"The Evangelical Church in the Soviet Union is almost

(10) "U. S. S. R.—Service," Berlin, No. 70 of Oct. 15, 1935.

(11) "U. S. S. R.—Service", Berlin No. 71 of Oct. 18, 1935. also: "East Carelia" issued by "Academia Carelia League", Helsinki 1934.

(12) "Stalin White Sea Canal", Moscow 1934, Page 78 (Russian).

(13) "Isvestija" ("Official Organ of U. S. S. R." Dec.28, 1932.)

completely eradicated. Of 85 ministers 47 are exiled to the concentration camps in Siberia and to the White Sea Canal. Two German ministers were recently sentenced to death. Of the remaining 38 ministers it can only be said that their fate is unknown as only 18 are performing their duty— the rest are prohibited from performing any ministerial functions.

"They are in constant danger and it is a question of mere months until the last pillars of the Evangelical Church

Тов. Фирин — помощ. ГУЛАГа и начальник лагеря Беломорстроя

The Jew, Simon Firin, Chief of the Concentration Camp of the S. W. C., a high G. P. U. official.

will be destroyed or sent into concentration camps. The churches are either demolished or converted into places of amusement and immorality." (14)

Very numerous also are the exiles who for "offense against the labor discipline" were convicted.

A decree for instance, a supplement of the criminal code

(14) Report of the German Pro-Deo-Commission, Berlin, October 1935.

of the R. S. F. S. R., Section 59, 3 B of February 15, 1931 provides deprivtion of liberty up to ten years and eventually shooting for any disciplinary offense for railroad workers. (15)

This decree of the R. S. F. S. R. (Russian Socialistic Federation of Soviet Republics, later U. S. S. R., Union of Socialistic Soviet Republics, B. W.) was released in compliance of the decree of the ZIK-(Central Executive Committee. B. W.) and S. N. K. (Council of People's Commissioners, B. W.) of the U. S. S. R. January 23, 1931.

Начальник строительства тов. Л. И. Коган

The Jew, Lazarus Josephsohn Kagan (Kohn or Cohen) Chief of construction at the S. W. C., a high G. P. U. official.

The transfer of children to the concentration camps is a particularly inhuman act of the Soviet government. Every now and then the Soviet press announces some new measures for the "liquidation of homelessness of children".

The world then hears that the children are being put into comfortable "homes" schools, etc. But actually the government has different ways; the best remedy to liquidate "homelessness" is the transfer of the children to concentration camps.

(15) Compilation of decrees of R. S. F. S. R., 1931, I No. 9.

Так детвой на полозьях таскали валуны.

This picture shows the complete absence of technical equipment. Large boulders are conveyed by old primitive means as can be seen in this picture. This is labor in a concentration camp.

According to reports from reliable eye witnesses it has repeatedly happened that freight trains were loaded with children and dispatched, but after arrival to points of destination these poor victims were found dead. Disease, cold and hunger had proven too great a remedy!

The Soviet press, of course, is silent about these liquidations. Very seldom, it corroborates the reports and it is, therefore, of great documentary importance when the official organ of the Communistic party *"Pravda"* (Truth?)

announces the 2,000 homeless children were exiled to Nadweisk and confined in a G. P. U. camp. (16)

The U. S. S. R. News service also reports about the transfer of children to camps:

"A woman who escaped from Carelia has reported that about 60 kilometers north of Karhumaki, exists a "camp for the homeless".

These camps constitute horror for the Carlian population as they accommodate the "Besprisornyeh"—homeless children of the exiled peasants. Approximately 4,000 children from every part of the Soviet Union are here squeezed together.

There are no schools or work shops. A great number vanish yearly from starvation, disease and destitution. Very often the children try to escape from these places of horror but they either vanish in the marshes or are shot by the militia. (17)

Famous in this respect is the so-called "Bolshewskaja Communa" which is a G. P. U. camp specially for minors. (18)

The following is an example of the "liquidation of homelessness of children" as reported by the Soviet official publication "Isvestija":

"Three filthy homeless girls (Besprisorny) entered the local department of education and timidly asked for work. 'Well, well! You would like to work in a factory hey? You sure look like it!' A broad laugh followed this remark from the director of the department. 'I will surely accommodate you—will you wait in the lobby? The girls withdrew and then the director called up the militia department: 'Will you dispatch someone to take charge of some minor criminals?' Half an hour later two militia men led away the three girls: Sonja Sewastichina, Tamara Michajlewa and Nadeshda Galina. In the militia station a skilful fitting protocol was prepared. And so the three 13 year old girls are not those who asked for work in the department of education but

(16) "Pravda" of October 4, 1935.
(17) "U. S. S. R.—Service," Berlin, No. 71 of of Oct. 18, 1935.
(18) "S. W. C." Moscow 1934, Pages 405.

three counter-revolutionists and dangerous state criminals." (19)

And what happens to state criminals is known too well; they are either shot or "sent off".

And then there are the criminal elements: thieves, murderers, and prostitutes. This accumulation of human dregs contributes to the misery and torment of the good and decent people who are exiled.

(19) "Isvestija" of Sept. 22, 1935.

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North America

Chapter Three

The Cry for Redemption of the Exiles

THE G. P. U. is anxiously concerned to have the concentration camps so hermetically secluded from the world that no information can leak out about the horrible conditions which exist there.

In spite of the precautions of the Jewish leaders, many prisoners have been successful in sending letters to their relatives in secret ways. It is quite easy to understand that the writers of these letters restrict themselves to only a few words concerning their need of support.

The letters are usually short and never contain many details about the internal conditions of the camps. However, they are valuable documents and one can easily sense what is hiding behind the short sentences. (It is humanly impossible for the Jewish authorities to censor all mail sent out of their country. B. W.)

Here follow some letters from exiled peasants. They are true copies from originals that are in our possession (complete in envelopes). [20]

"Dear Brother: If possible kindly help us as it is very difficult to live here. We are five in the family without a father and only one working—it is too hard for us. We are now five years in this forest and are very poor, it is all too much for a widow with children, so I beg please do not refuse aid, I will thank you heartily. Kindly dear brother, we are in great distress and don't know what to do—we are almost naked for want of clothes and therefore please give us your help, do not refuse dear brother. Thank you . . . ."

"Dear Friend: I, a German farmer, would like a message. Many here have already received aid for the starving

(20) These letters cannot be translated perfectly as they are written by simple, mostly uneducated people who disregard the rules of grammar. B. W.)

so I too, beg for your assistance. I am with my wife and children in exile and if possible please send us a charitable gift—at least an answer and your address. We are six together in our sufferings . . . ."

"Dear Sister: I come with a great request to you and beg if possible for your help as I am in distress. I live very

The Jew, Grigorij Davidsohn Afanasjew, Chief engineer of the concentration camps, a high G. P. U. official.

poorly as I am exiled and you know why, so please do not refuse your help. I beg heartily not to turn down my request."

"Dear Friend: As a Russo-German, I come again to you with request for help. Possibly you could support me in my distress. I am with my children exiled for six years. Three of them are of school age, my husband and one grown-up

son have died here in the forest. Our position is very grave and so please have pity and respect our request".

"Dear Sister: We are forced to come to you for your support as the conditions are so bad that it is impossible to live. We are in a concentration camp and get very little to eat. We can not buy anything and have no money, please

The Jew, Naftalij Aronsohn Frenkel. Chief of works in the camps, a high G. P. U. official.

advise if you can help—we are Baptists— three persons...."

"Dear Friend: If possible be kind and take care of me as we are exiled and in sorrow. My mother is cold and sick (she has been sick for nine months) I cannot work and am without a father. Only my sister is working and she had an accident in the lessosagotowka (lumber-cutting, B. W.) ; a tree fell on her and she was almost killed. I have another sick sister, 6 years old. It is very hard to get along without father so please do not refuse us aid. We are sent here only to live in distress. Please send help. Thank you."

"Dear Friend: We are in need and forced to call on you for your help and support. When we were brought here, we could not bring anything along, not even our last cow. We are in a forest in a camp. We are Baptists, a group of seven—I am an invalid and cannot work, please say if we can be helped as without help we are doomed. With greetings and a heart felt request . . ."

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North America

Chapter Four

The Division of the Compulsion Workers

THE compulsion workers are divided into two categories:

1. Administrative exiled and
2. Those sentenced to hard labor in concentration camps.

In the administrative course, generally whole families (mostly peasants) are transferred into exile.

They are confined to barracks in the northern regions and are compelled to work if they do not want to die of starvation. This work is not compulsory and they are free to move about although they have to register on certain dates at the G. P. U. office. The benefit of this relative freedom, however, is very limited as the remuneration for their work is scaled down to a scant minimum and it is necessary for them to work hard in order to make a living.

As a peculiar caste they sharply contrast with the local population of the communities into which they are exiled.

Much worse is the lot of the inhabitants of the concentration camps who, contrary to the administrative exiled groups, live under constant observation and are closely guarded.

As already stated, the exiles comprise members of different trades, classes and nationalities. In the camps they all share the same fate: hard work, indescribable distress and death, as redemption from endless sufferings.

Into this outwardly homogeneous group, the Bolsheviks have brought an entirely new classification. In pursuance of their slogan "divide and rule", they elevate from the masses of exiled, certain groups to the position of guardians over their fellow-sufferers.

For this the guardians are rewarded with more gentle treatment and better maintenance. These classifications are accomplished with such skill that the Bolsheviks are able to

Винтовку так держат не для стрельбы, а потому, что так удобнее

The exiles are always closely guarded. This picture shows a guard on duty—ready for action. The Russian title below the picture reads somewhat humorously: "The gun is held in this position not to scare, but for convenience."

maintain a rigid watch service with a comparatively small number of G. P. U. men stationed at each place. From those selected (mostly criminals) regular troops are formed, designed for guardians of the exiles and are even supplied with arms. These troops—wochrcwtsy or W.O.C.H.R. (armed

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guards. B. W.) in reference to their judical and material position, have a different standing than their fellow exiles.

Although they are still regarded as prisoners and not at will to leave the camps, they, as guardians are naturally free to move around. They are accommodated in separate camps inasmuch when such are available and are mostly clad in military uniforms. Their food rations are larger and contain tobacco, the ration of a Red army man. (21)

These reliables (that is, criminal guards!) sometimes are given such posts as supervisors and administrators. They are, for instance, appointed to such positions as warehouse superintendents, transport foremen, chefs, etc. They all enjoy a preferred maintenance but for the slightest trespass, or mistake, have to pay with their lives.

These divisions are also applied among the ordinary workers. The exiles mostly work in brigades of from 25 to 30 men. Each brigade is led by a brigadier who naturally has to work himself. During the construction of the White Sea Canal two or three brigades were headed by one "chief-brigadier" (starshij brigadir). For the training of these brigadiers special schools were established.

The chief-brigadiers also enjoy a considerable preference. Comrade Jagoda, himself, demanded in an order that they be given extraordinary treatment. During the construction of the S. W. C. these chief-brigadiers received in addition to better clothing, from 30 to 60 roubles (15 to 30 dollars pre-war basis) monthly remuneration. (22)

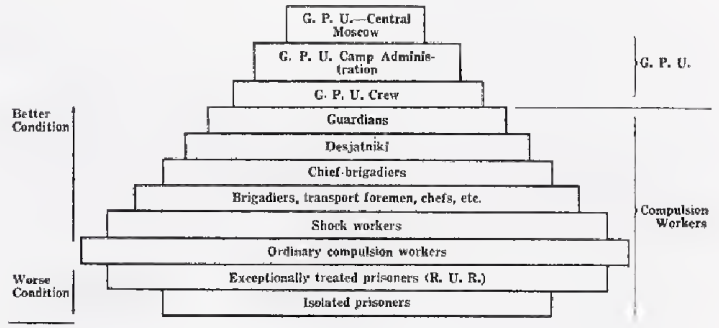
An exceptionally great influence on the fate of the prisoners is possessed by the "Desjatniki" (a derivation from "djessatj"—ten, meaning a supervisor over ten prisoners. B. W.). These "desjatniki" are trusted with the distribution of *"uroks"* (pronounced "oorock" and meaning a certain amount of work, or task. B. W.) and valuation of the work done.

As a special inducement for greater efficiency of the

(21) "S.W.C." Moscow 1934. Chapter 6.
(22) S. W. C. Moscow 1934. Page 265.

workers, the brigadiers and desjatniki receive extra premiums. (23)

The division of the administration and compulsion workers (except the engineering personnel) is evident in the following scheme:



(23) "S. W. C." Page 209.

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Chapter Five

The Construction of the Stalin White Sea Canal

THE existing conditions in the concentration camps of the Soviet Union will now be illustrated by means of an example, of the construction of the Stalin White Sea Canal.

In illustrating this project, I have limited myself entirely to the digestion of official Soviet records.

This material, which is unknown abroad, does not by any means give a conclusive account about the miserable existence of the compulsion workers. In a critical digestion, however, it affords a sufficiently thorough view of their life in exile.

The Construction Project

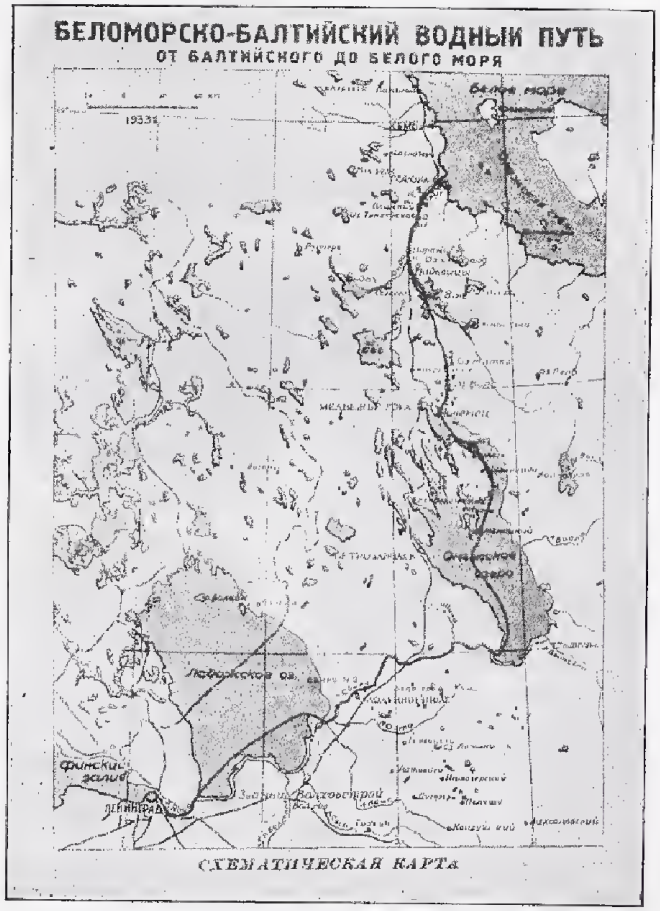
As evident from the accompanying map, the White Sea Canal is a connecting link of the White Sea and the gulf of Finland. A considerable length of the canal is constituted by natural waterways including such rivers as the Neva, Ladoga, Swyr, Onega, Wyg, etc.

The main task was the construction of the stretch between the White Sea and the Onega Sea which lies between the 62nd and 65th latitudes. The climate in this region is exceptionally severe, the winters are long and cold. The nights are bright and a heavy snow blanket covers the land during the long winters.

Geologically speaking it is marine; a multitude of smaller and bigger lakes are scattered through the territory and giant rocks and boulders practically cover the entire surface. The subjacent layer is composed of extremely hard substance. Numerous rapids and natural dikes hinder traffic on the lakes.

Big settlements are non-existent and immense distances lie between the few barren villages.

Through this inhospitable region, the Soviet govern-



The water ways between the White Sea and the gulf of Finland. In the region between the 62nd and 65th latitudes, the White Sea Canal was constructed by compulsion labor.

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Jewish G. P. U. officials. Berman and Firin, while supervising work. Note the expression on their faces.

ment decided to run the canal. On February 18, 1931 a conclusive plan for the future waterway was drafted.

On account of these natural conditions the execution of the project met with many difficulties. The entire length of the Canal was approximately 227 kilometers; 19 locks, 15 dikes, 12 drainages had to be constructed and large areas of ground had to be shifted.

A decree of the "Sownarkom" (Council of Peoples Commissioners, B. W.) of August 2, 1933 argued that the construction of the Canal had been done under "extraordinarily difficult geological and hydrological conditions." (24)

It would only be natural to suppose that the Soviet government would extend every available technical aid at their

(24) "S. W. C."—Moscow 1934 Page 401.

disposal to carry out such a tremendous project. But the Bolshevist rulers had a different plan. All technical and financial means were preserved and employed for publicity purposes to build up big ideas regarding Russia in the mind of the outside world.

Never a foreign tourist would be curious enough to enter this eternal inhospitable north, and the working power supplied by apprehended peasants could be had for nothing. And even under the aspects that possibly hundreds of thousands of human lives would have to be sacrificed—well! that did not matter—on the contrary, it would only contribute to achieve the eagerly looked for goal—the liquidation of the "class enemies".

A decree of the STO (Council of Transport and Defense) issued February 18, 1931 ruled that in the construction of the Canal only materials and supplies were to be used that were available in large quantities and useless for other purposes. Aside from this, the construction had to be of a cheap and simple quality. (25)

In spite of these restrictions, the setting of a "record" that would amaze the world, was demanded: *the Canal had to be completed in 20 months!*

Evidently the three following factors contributed largely to the difficulties that were encountered in its construction:

1. The unfavorable natural conditions.
2. Insufficiency of material and supplies.
3. An extraordinarily short term.

The concurrence of these factors alone would have been amply sufficient to reflect, in a most damaging way, on the life of the prisoners but we will learn that the Tshekists did not refrain from employing many other methods to convey these unfortunates into the world beyond.

The Administration

The execution of this enterprise was turned over to the G. P. U. and assigned to the position of chief administrator,

(25) STO decree, Page 82.

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the then assistant chairman (at present chief) of the G. P. U. the Jew, Comrade Jagoda. (26)

The G. P. U. administration of the enterprise was composed of 37 members. The most important including Jagoda were:

Matwej Davidsohn Berman, chief of camp administration of the G. P. U.

Lazarus Josephsohn Kagan, (Cohn) chief of constructions.

Simon Grigoretvitch Firin, chief of S. W. C. Camp.
Jacob Davidsohn Rappoport, assistant to Kagan and Berman.

Naftalij Aronsohn Frenkel, chief of work (superintendent).

Grigorij Davidsohn Afanasjew, chief engineer.
Samuel Kwazenskij, political instructor.

Abraham Isaaksohn Rottenberg, chief of penal-isolators and leader of the atheistic section.
Ginsburg, camp physician.

Brodsky, commander of the guards.

Berensohn, Dorfman, Kagner, Augert—directors of the finance department of the G. P. U. (They were everyone Jews. B. W.)

The chief of the Central Camp Administration Comrade, Matwej Davidsohn Berman, is one of the best known Tshekists. He was distinguished with the "Order of the red flag" by the Soviet government as early as 1927. (27)

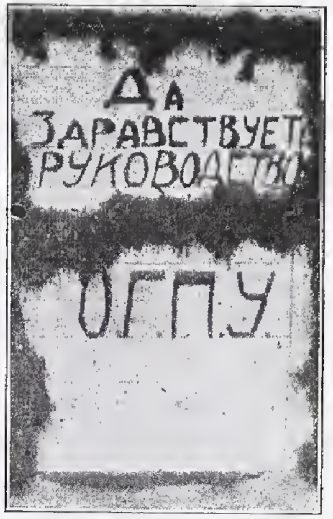
Abraham Isaaksohn Rottenberg, is known to criminal departments the world over as a dangerous criminal, murderer, and thief.

Most of the mentioned Tschekists were distinguished by the government for the "successful transfer of exiles into the world beyond". (28)

This personnel impersonates the tragic position of the

(26) STO. Pages 12 and 50.
(27) "Pravda" Dec. 18, 1927.
(28) Decree Z. I. K. Aug. 4, 1933.

G. P. U. official, Abraham Isaaksohn Rottenberg. Chief leader of the Atheistic action.



Inscription on a wall of the barrack: "The administration of the G. P. U. shall live".

exiles who worked on this project, as their fate rested exclusively in the hands of these bestial G. P. U. agents.

The Living Conditions

From all parts of the immense Soviet Union people were apprehended and transferred to the area of the future waterway. A connecting link in the transportation of the prisoners was the railway branch Swanka-Medweshjagora, Soroka (see chart).

After their arrival, the prisoners had to march over partly impassable roads to their destination. Here they had to dig pits, erect tents or build barracks, where they were forced to live in absolute seclusion from the world.

Around the big campfires, tents were lifted and then

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huts, as the tents were filled. Transport after transport comes in. (29)

It was terribly cold there; and colder for those who hailed from the sunny South—they leave the transport shivering, tie rags over their mouths and tighten the blankets around their bodies—and freeze. (30)

Then there are those who have to sleep with the stars shining in their faces—the tents are crowded and the barracks not yet finished. No provisions are made to cook or prepare the distribution of rations; the food has to be consumed in its raw state. (31)

But it is cold in the barracks too. Around the heaters, on planks that rest on boxes, lie people in their clothing and overcoats. The crevices between the logs are plugged up with newspapers. (32)

The severe frost causes the wallboards to crack and burst with a crackle. (33)

The suffering under this terrible cold is so great that the prisoners have but one dream; to sleep in the tunnels of the concrete dams where by chemical processes a slight warmth is made possible.

The food rations are so scant that the physically stronger prisoners often rob their weaker co-sufferers. The distribution of food is always accompanied by quarrels, swearings and attempts to grab some of the precious morsels from a fellow-prisoner. (Thus, the Jews reduce their Gentile slaves to the level of animals. B. W.)

The kitchen unit No. 2 is stationed in a summer barrack. Through the crevices a bitterly cold wind sweeps over the kitchen and thick smoke fills the air during the preparation of meals. The bread also is stored in a summer barrack and always hard frozen.

(29) S. W. C. Page 92.
(30) S. W. C. Page 95.
(31) S. W. C. Page 102.
(32) S. W. C. Page 122.
(33) S. W. C. Page 132.

Although thermos flasks are at hand they are never used and the food reaches the men in a cold state. The constant drying of clothing and felt boots above the heaters in the camps, causes the air to become poisoned. (34)

The mortality in the camps is enormous on account of diseases. The prisoners are so lousy that regular slaughter houses had to be equipped where day by day in the bitter cold, sit imprisoned nuns from the various former Russian convents and with the aid of tiny metallic sticks, destroy the lice and nits in the prisoners clothing. These White Sea lice are the object of many a legend. (35)

The Work

Now the prisoners are divided into brigades of 25 to 30 men. Ten brigades comprise a phalanx, that is 250 to 300 men. Each phalanx is given a section where every brigade has to perform a peculiar task: digging, blasting, deforestation, etc.

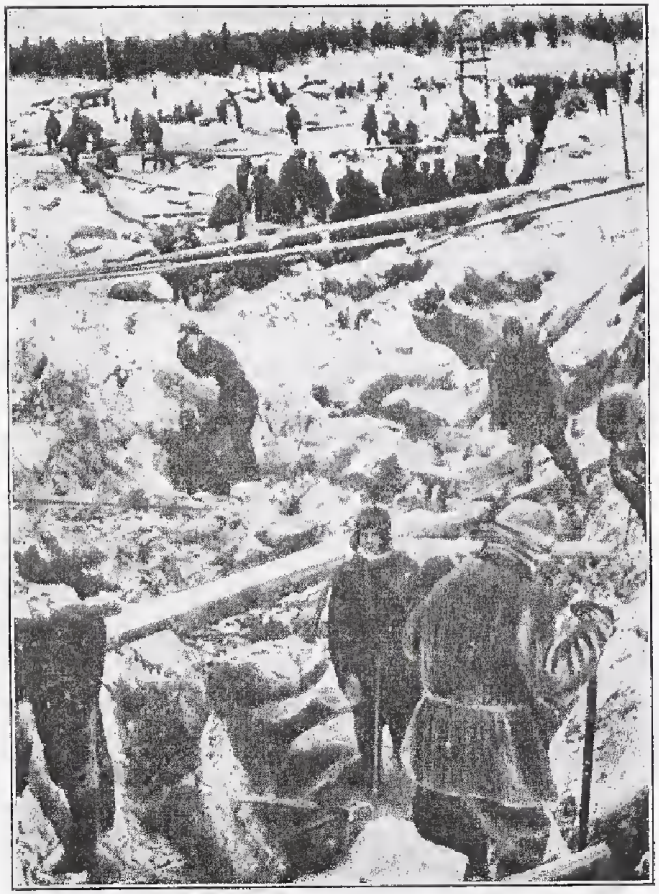
Then each worker is given an *"urok"* for the day and is required to complete it in the time allowed. In the quarry, for instance, this *"urok"* is a large block of stone which he has to sever, crush, then load on the wheelbarrow and transfer away quite a distance.

For an under nourished poorly clad man who has to walk a long distance to and from work, it is a performance that lies very close to the border of the impossible. And then the equipment: a pick, a wheelbarrow and planks to form the driveways for the barrow—that's all. A prisoner reports:

"Everyone has to crush and convey rock. We, as novices, had to do half an 'urok'. But even with the best of effort we could not master it. My heart trembled. A flood of abuse and swearing followed." (36)

But these established "standards" were not always adhered to—like everything they were subject to change.

(34) S. W. C. Page 242.
(35) S. W. C. Page 303.
(36) S. W. C. Page 96.



The construction of the White Sea Canal. Picks, wheelbarrows and planks—these represent the entire "technical" equipment of the compulsion workers. This picture shows that the understratum is solely composed of rock. The complete lack of machines and technical supplies alone would make the life of prisoners literally a hell.

Often the Central G. P. U. in Moscow would order a "rush" and as a result the standards were raised accordingly.

This usually culminated in the "consumption" of thousands of extra lives. In these cases, the requirements of the compulsion workers were raised from 150 to 200 per cent above their regular performance. (37)

And it was not easy to manage a normal *"urok"* . . . "The frozen ground would not yield. The 'urok' was so big that many thought they could never handle it. Midnight sun—blue snow, it snows and snows . . . mountains of snow have to be shovelled off the pit. Many men have landed in the isolator—having collapsed of exposure." (38)

Another prisoner recalls his first day at work: "I saw mountains of snow, dirt, frozen blasting fragments and a hullabaloo of boards and planks. We were handed the tools and started to work. I admit freely it was hopeless. Just to see all this endless snow covered land would make us down hearted and it seemed an impossibility to progress whatever. The wheelbarrows tip over and people tumble head-over into the snow." (39)

The typical picture of the work in progress is summarized in the following: "A dirty snow covered cavity is filled with men and boulders. The people move around stumbling and falling. Two or three of the prisoners stoop down to lift a big stone—but it will not move—they leave it and try a smaller one. On the wet, loosely assembled planks the wheelbarrow slips and tips over. Swearing . . . and again begins the filling of the cart." (40)

But the most inhuman task is the work in the icy water . . . . "For eighteen hours the prisoners stood emerged to the abdomen in the water and dragged boulders. We have been driven into the cold water even at nights. It was almost impossible to withstand the heavy current." (41)

(37) S. W. C. Pages 281, 285.
(38) S. W. C. Page 97.
(39) S. W. C. Page 97.
(40) S. W. C. Page 112.
(41) S. W. C. Page 179.

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Often the blastings had to be done in the water too . . . . "The water is ice cold . . . the prisoners freeze and shiver. The shockworkers, Kramers and Petroff, are in the water down to their knees, the thermometer registers 20 below zero." (42)

Another dreadful problem is the quicksand gushing out of the deep . . . . "The quicksand suddenly broke out in two places with a force that reminded one of fermenting yeast. Hour after hour they stood there scooping the pappy mass without raising their heads . . . and yet not an inch was gained. The prisoners were exhausted and stood there looking down into the pit with staring eyes much like an insane horde. Sweat fell in heavy drops from their faces into the sand . . . tears of despair and fury". (43)

In the spring uncounted victims were claimed by the rapid streams . . . . "The canal was filling up with water that rose higher and higher as a warm wind blew over the land. The prisoners dropped the tools and ran panic-stricken. They slide down the embankments into the dirt . . . the cold water rushes on and on . . . .". (44)

Almost through the entire period of the construction, work was carried on at nights . . . . "The whole area was brightly illuminated with searchlights. Here and there a red campfire. The prisoners warm their hands now and then and hurriedly rush back to their dreaded work." (45)

On account of many sleepless nights, one great dream-vision lingers persistently in the minds of the prisoners: the vision of a long and refreshing sleep. "When this canal is completed" a prisoner remarks in his tired monotonous voice, "I want to sleep—two days and two nights without interruption". (46)

The lack of any technical equipment whatsoever and the absolute disregard of human life, resulted in innumer-

(42) S. W. C. Page 279.
(43) S. W. C. Page 289.
(44) S. W. C. Page 307.
(45) S. W. C. Pages 27, 167, 214, 283.
(46) S. W. C. Page 198.

able accidents and as many died during the construction of the Canal as had perished during the world war. (47)

The slightest negligence or failure on the part of the prisoners bring severe punishment. A common practice is to confine these neglecters to the "penal isolator"—a jail where specially harsh treatment is administered. They are literally set on starvation rations and tortured in every possible way.

The chief of the "isolator" was the Jew, Abraham Isaaksohn Rottenberg, well known by many police departments of the world and a much wanted criminal in countries where he practiced his crimes prior to the time that he became a Soviet official. This position on the Canal gave him ample opportunity to practice from experiences gained through a long criminal record. (48)

Those neglecters, however, could not be kept constantly in the isolator as the loss of physical power among the workers would have been too great. To avoid this, special groups were formed, the so-called "detachments under intensified regime" (Rotty Ussilennowo Reshima, R. U. R.) who, although still on starvation ration were given extremely hard work and kept under rigid surveillance.

These groups were comprised largely of those prisoners who through despair and sufferings finally refused to get up from their "planks" and join their brigade—the so-called "otkastshiki" (refusers B. W.). (49)

The People

The inhabitants of the compulsion camps of the White Sea Canal consisted of members representing practically every trade and nationality of the Soviet Union.

There were clergymen, speculators, businessmen, thieves, murderers, laborers and greatest of all peasants and peasants! Naturally, the worst sufferings were those experienced by members of the old leading society and the in-

(47) S. W. C. Page 274.
(48) S. W. C. Pages 324 and 337.
(49) S. W. C. Pages 170 and 301.

With great difficulty these rocks are shifted with nothing but bare hands. Such inhuman tasks and horrible living conditions cause the people to die in great masses.

telligentsia who were not accustomed to hard physical labor and, therefore, succumbed in masses.

Class distinctions do not amount to a great deal up in the eternal North. There they are all alike and only considered a substitute for animal power by the alien usurpers —no, not even that, because animals will get the best of care and preservation but these people *must* be exterminated.

The people from southern Russia find themselves in a desperate position. Accustomed to the scorching sun of their southern steppes and deserts, they fall prey to the terrible cold . . . . "These national minorities at first move around stunned and scared. All that is going on has no meaning and sense to them—it is all so strange and hard to understand: these people who give orders—the Canal that they have to build—the food that is given them—Oh everything! They encounter great difficulty in walking in high felt socks and awkward shoes and hesitatingly step forward". (50)

Patiently these Asiatics carry their lot. They glorify their Almighty God until death comes to end distress and sufferings. "Nassyrew is a Tadshik, 42 years of age. He sits with closed eyes and rhythmically moves his body to and fro. A narrow bread runs down from his freshly scarred lips, his forehead is small and narrow . . . . Now he stands erect and reverently bows—once—twice—thrice . . . his ostentatious call to God among dust, cigarette butts. and swearing." (51)

Unbelievably hard is also the lot of the peasants, the "Kulak". Broken away from soil, home and kin he has to do senseless and inhuman work.

"Another transport of German settlers arrives . . . the Kulaks were led to work but they stubbornly refused to comply. The axes and saws were dropped and there they stood in the snow as trees were falling, saws squeaking and people hurrying around. Motionless the Kulaks stood until the darkness crept slowly over the snow and yellow campfires arose . . . and then their prayers and psalms echoed

(50) S. W. C. Page 257.
(51) S. W. C. Page 93.

through the darkness that mercifully enveloped everything around them . . . ." (52)

Tragic is the experience of a certain peasant. ". . . . he passed an unploughed field and sad recollections began to fill his mind. A herd of cattle appeared and among them a huge grey steer. It strode up to him and mooing, tenderly licked his hands . . . the peasant in his mourning mood pressed his face against the steer's forehead and began to cry. . . ." (53)

The fact that the peasants are housed together with criminal elements aggravates the conditions to an unbearable extent. "In some barracks murder and manslaughter has been committed. Criminals gamble and play hazardously and often lose their food rations for a whole month in advance and in order to pay their debts rob their weaker fellows. Failing to pay has cost many a man his life." (54)

Women in the Labor Camps

However hard and hopeless the lot of these prisoners may be, the fate of the women-prisoners is an incomparable misery.

Weak and frail as they are, they have to perform a similar amount of work as that of their male co-prisoners. How these women suffer through humiliation of their feminine dignity cannot be described in words.

"The first days after their arrival these women master their 'urok' only with the greatest of efforts. One of them passes a wheelbarrow and with a ghastly expression of anger and hatred spits in its direction. The guard seems rather puzzled and can only shout: 'but my dear . . . my dear!' " (55)

A woman prisoner reports: "I am so weak and thin that one could count the ribs even with my sheepskin on. None of the women in our brigade were strong. I started to push the wheelbarrow, but the embankments were steep and the

(52) S. W. C. Page 165.
(53) S. W. C. Page 180.
(54) S. W. C. Page 171.
(55) S. W. C. Page 91.

The women prisoners have to do similar work as their male co-prisoners. The hardship and humiliation of their feminine dignity cannot be described.

muscles were failing me under the heavy strain. I felt like throwing myself onto the ground and cry—cry. . ." (56)

February 18, 1933 a decree was released by the G. P. U. which gives adequate information about the position of the women in the camps:

Order No. 54 (in abbreviated form) of the chief administration of the G. P. U. in charge of the White Sea Canal training camp. G. P. U. station Medweshja-gora (bear mountain, B. W.) February 18, 1933:

1. In some camps the female quarters are badly supervised—they are inadequately furnished and very unsanitary conditions exist.

2. Most of the female working units have no kitchen—the food rations are given out in a dry and unprepared state, effecting under nourishment.

(56) S. W. C. Page 272.

3. The medicinal and hygienical services are inadequate. The women do not always get the service of a physician when treatment is necessary . . . .

4. Members of the camp administration and also male prisoners do not show due consideration toward the women. They are harshly and cynically treated and often their feminine dignity is violated.

5. As a consequence of the inadequate cultural instructions and insufficient consideration of the necessities of life—we find: thievery, alcoholism, card-playing and prostitution. (57)

What these very carefully formulated official Soviet statements are concealing, even a most vivid imagination would not be able to describe.

"Storm" at the "Wodoras'del" (58)

As previously stated the Soviet government purposely abstained from supplying the necessary technical equipment for the construction of the White Sea Canal.

Nevertheless, it fixed a minimum of time to complete the job that, on account of the natural conditions and inadequate equipment, could only be regarded as fantastic and impossible.

This short time allotted, as well as the ceaseless speeding up of the workers, has been described by some writers about Soviet Russia as senseless and a mere dalliance of the government.

But in reality it was not a senseless play. The leaders of the Soviet Union were fully aware of the significance of their plans and the terrors of this Canal served perfectly the desired purpose, *the extermination of all nationally and racially valuable elements of old Russia.*

The G. P. U. had determined that the Canal was to be completed by May 1, 1933. But in the early days of 1933 it was already an established fact

(57) S. W. C. Page 253.

(58) (Wodoras'del—a point where the river branches out. B. W.)

The Jew Matwej Davidsohn Berman in the uniform of the G. P. U. during an inspection of the compulsion camps White Sea Canal. (Berman at the right.)

that the fixed term could not be adhered to. The bare hands of the prisoners who through diseases and under nourishment were but wrecks, had proven too weak in their stern battle against the rocks. Nevertheless, the G. P. U. was steadfast in its decision—the term would not be changed. And again mountains of dead prisoners covered the Canal . . . .

In the spring of 1933 Comrade Jagoda released the following order:

"Medweshja-gora.

"The development of the construction work of the canal in spite of the measures taken for betterment of the camps and construction, demand that further steps be taken to guarantee the completion of the canal on May 1, 1933. A change of this term will not be considered. The canal must be ready by May 1.

Mennonite Church

The exiles work among a hullabaloo of planks. The tremendous quantity of ground and rocks has to be conveyed by simple wheelbarrows. Often they work for 48 hours without interruption until they collapse.

"I order:

"1. The entire Tscheka as well as the administrative and engineering corps are declared under martial law. The camp detachments are to be replaced by a martial staff under the direction of particularly strong-fisted Tshekists. As auxiliary attachments for these staffs, engineers will be designated who will regulate the work so as to attain the necessary speed . . . .

"2. Wherever possible three shifts have to be established. The installation of additional lighting and supplying of materials has to be carried out correspondingly.

"3. Persons delivering false reports about the progress of work or otherwise engaging in any form of sabotage will be prosecuted regardless of rank and position." (59)

A particularly difficult position had developed at the lakes "Wadlosero" and "Matkosero". Between these two lakes in due course, a connection had to be made if the construction work was to be at all completed by May 1, 1933. This link was the so-called "Wodoras'del".

The central G. P. U. administration therefore, issued the following order:

"To all chiefs of the various detachments, the technical personnel and the canal troops!

"Hereby a construction *storm* is declared.

"At the Wodoras'del the battle has to assume warning character. The *storm* commences January 7th and is conducted by the staff!" (60)

Thirty thousand compulsion workers from the various camps were transferred to the Wodoras'del. Here they had to be accommodated in excavations as barracks and tents would not be supplied (in cold January!). (61)

A slogan was selected and adopted:

"We must turn the cold January into a glorious hot

(59) S. W. C. Page 265.
(60) S. W. C. Page 269.
(61) S. W. C. Page 272.

e of the Mennonite Church
forth America

June!" Against all "backstanders" a merciless fight was declared. (62)

The *storm* begins January 7th . . . "now the people, rocks and boulders know no rest." (63)

"The prisoners stand in the icy waters—they are half frozen. They work at nights, which doesn't mean that they sleep in the daytime". (64)

The prisoners work feverishly. They produce 150 to 160 per cent above the fixed standards... "They root the ground for 48 hours without recess or sleep. Drowsy and sleepy they stagger into the barracks their heads whirling . . . . They still feel the handles of the wheelbarrow in their hands". (65)

"Someone collapses and sleeps for five minutes. Then cold water is administered—he rubs the swollen eyelids and —works on". (66)

With devilish madness the Tshekists drive the prisoners on and on—more and more people collapse, exhausted and indifferent. They fear neither the whip nor the bullet. And then their tormentors resort to new methods—the nerves of these exhausted and apathetic victims have to be brushed up.

The second day of the *storm* is over. It is midnight. The prisoners rave and shiver from hard work and cold. Then at the work section appears the "agit-brigade" (agitation brigade. B. W.).

In the glaring beams of the searchlights these agit-brigadiers sing their provoking songs. Through megaphones short and ripping sentences spring into the darkness and the orchestra plays inciting marches . . . .

And the prisoners rush on and on . . . .

Quicker! Quicker! demands the orchestra! Quicker! sings the agit-brigade . . . .

(62) S. W. C. Page 273.
(63) S. W. C. Page 274.
(64) S. W. C. Page 280.
(65) S. W. C. Page 284.
(66) S. W. C. Page 292.

Canal Volga-Moskwa. Behind the walls of this fortress the Jewish administration of the G. P. U. is accommodated.

For 16 hours continuously they sing with hoarse voices. Nobody listens and nobody cares to understand the songs. (67) But the work goes on . . . .

The Wodoras'del hasn't eaten nor slept for 48 hours. Horses collapse, (68) but the prisoners are going on . . . .

The Jewish hangmen of the G. P. U. demand more victims. Reserves have to be brought in. And the impatient, infuriated voice of Moscow rings out:

"In accord with order No. 1 to the chief administration of the White Sea Canal, the entire construction of the canal is declared under martial law. 'Storm' is to be observed until completion of the canal!"

(67) S. W. C. Page 284.
(68) S. W. C. Page 284.

nonite Church

The weather now is miserable—rain, snow, frost and sleet.

The feet stick to the drenched ground, the boots are weighing heavy and the clothing dripping wet, freezing stiff with ice crusts. All women from the laundries, kitchens and offices are put to work—everybody is forced out. (69)

Already 200 to 210 per cent over the daily standards is attained. (70)

And still the *storm* goes on. MOUNTAINS OF DEAD MEN AND WOMEN COVER THE ENTIRE SECTION.

The construction of the White Sea Canal and particularly the *storm* at the Wodoras'del in the spring of 1933 will in all eternity present one of the most gruesome episodes in human history. A bloody testimonial of Jewish annihilation —will and cruelty. (71)

The construction of the White Sea Canal is only a single episode of the compulsion camps. This Canal is now completed. But up to the present time there exists many camps, in remote places of the Soviet Union, which are nothing but places of torment and undescribable misery, filling a period of transition into a peaceful and redeeming world beyond for millions of human beings.

New canals are being planned and constructed—new areas are being deforested and even at the completed White Sea Canal, thousands of exiles are still working. (72)

The best known enterprise of this kind probably is the Volga-Moskwa-Canal. Work on this project was commenced in 1932. Its completion is expected in 1937 (end of the Second Five Year Plan.)

After the completion of the White Sea Canal the administration of this Volga project was transferred into the

(69) S. W. C. Page 284.

(70) S. W. C. Page 285.

(71) I shall point out again that in describing the construction of the S. W. C. exclusively Soviet material was used and the description, therefore, is but a faint reflection of the actual conditions in the camps and the life of the compulsion workers.

(72) "Isvestija" Oct. 12, 1935.

Entrance to the camp Volga-Moskwa-Canal. The camp is closely guarded by G. P. U. men.

hands of the same "strong-fisted" Tshekists of the Jewish race who had proven their ability at the White Sea Canal: Kagan, Firin, Afanasjew and others. (73)

This enterprise is under special protectorate of Lazarus Mosessohn Kaganowitch, right-hand Jewish father-in-law of dictator Joseph Stalin.

With the construction of this canal another opportunity is offering itself to transfer "undesirables" into the next world, as enormous quantities of ground will have to be shifted. (74)

It is often argued that the Soviet Union is in a process of evolution and that the compulsion camps will vanish by and by. This belief is unjustified and wrong.

(73) "Pravda" August 2, 1935.

(74) "Isvestija" Sept. 9, 1935.

Contrary to this, everywhere in the far-flung Soviet Union new camps are springing up. The "Union for the construction of highways", for instance, was dissolved October 23, 1935. (75)

And on October 28, 1935 the Tsheka-G. P. U. was entrusted with the administration of the entire project of highways.(76)

Millions of people have already vanished in the first Marxist state of the world. And millions will have to sacrifice their lives under the Jewish domination as long as this devilish system is allowed to exist.

(Printed in the United States.)

(75) Compilation of decrees U. S. S. R. 1935 I. No. 56.
(76) Compilation of decrees U. S. S. R. 1935 I. No. 56.

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